

Application No. 09/767,514
Amendment dated October 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated March 12, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hard molded plastic tubular coupling which is intended to receive an end of a length of tubing, said coupling having a sleeve portion, said sleeve portion having a an outer cylindrical surface adapted to engage with a corresponding surface of another component, the cylindrical surface having an annular substantially V-shaped recess formed therein partway along said sleeve portion, and a flexible annular diaphragm disposed in the recess integrally with the coupling at the apex of the recess and having an outer periphery extending outwardly from the cylindrical surface to engage and grip the corresponding surface of said another component, said sleeve portion having a tapered portion at one end to facilitate insertion of the sleeve portion into a said end of a length of tubing, and an end stop at the other end of said sleeve portion to limit the extent of insertion of said sleeve portion into said length of tubing.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible diaphragm is able to flex towards either side of the V when the coupling is engaged with said another component.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the end stop comprises an annular head at said other end of the sleeve portion, said head projecting outwardly of the sleeve portion.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): A coupling as claimed in claim 5, wherein the head includes a means to grip and seal with an encircling component in which the sleeve portion is engaged.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 6, wherein the head has an encircling groove and a sealing ring seated in said groove.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 6, wherein the outer surface of the head has an annular recess, a further flexible diaphragm is disposed in the annular recess in the head and projecting outwardly from the outer surface of the head to engage and lock the head in the bore of an encircling component in which the coupling is located.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling has a second encircling annular recess with a second flexible annular diaphragm disposed therein to engage and grip in another component.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second recess is V-shaped and the second flexible annular diaphragm is formed in the apex of the V.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second diaphragm projects marginally above said flexible annular diaphragm to provide a gripping function, said flexible annular diaphragm providing a sealing function with said another component in which the coupling is engaged.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A coupling as claimed in claim 9 and in the case where the coupling has a head at one end, wherein the second annular recess is formed between the V-shaped recess and the head.

Claim 13 (canceled)